

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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SEN. SCOTT INTRODUCES BILL TO PROVIDE PRISONERS PHOTO IDs UPON RELEASE

LANSING - State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) today introduced legislation (SB 1336) that will require the Michigan Department of Corrections to issue prisoners a standardized identification card upon parole or release. The photo ID card will assist prisoners in establishing identification for the purposes of obtaining employment, driver's licenses, housing, check cashing, and other instances where identification must be validated.

"This legislation assists our prison population in establishing an identity for re-entry into the workforce, once they have paid their debt to society," Sen. Martha G. Scott said. "The identification card will smooth their transition and help them in building their new lives."

Currently, when inmates are released from the Michigan Department of Corrections, they do not receive any type of "official" state identification card. However, the Secretary of State requires three pieces of identification to obtain a driver's license, a requirement with which prisoners are often unable to comply. The legislation will require the Department of Corrections to assist prisoners in obtaining the remaining two required pieces of documentation, as well as issuing the ID card upon parole or completion of the prisoner's parole or maximum sentence.

The bill is part of a bipartisan package of legislation (SB 1336-1338) that requires issuance of the ID cards.

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Senator Martha G. Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.